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LETTER DATED 3 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 3 May 1995 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Mate Granić, addressed to you (see annex).

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 3 May 1995 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Ambassador Nobilo's letter of 2 May 1995 (S/1995/349), I have to inform you that today, at 1210 hours local time, Croatian Serb paramilitaries launched yet another terrorist attack at the very centre of Zagreb. Ground-to-ground missiles with cluster-bomb warheads identical to the ordnance used in yesterday's attack hit the Children's Hospital in Klaićeva Street; the Croatian National Theatre building, in the immediate surroundings of Zagreb's main mosque; in the vicinity of the University of Zagreb's main building; and in the vicinity of the main railway station. Today's casualties include 1 person killed and 43 wounded, of whom as many as 20 are foreign nationals.

The Serbian paramilitary forces, acting on the direct orders of Milan Martić and "general" Milan Čeleketić, directed their attack at civilians, hospitals, schools and cultural and religious institutions in Zagreb. They used missiles that are excessively injurious and have indiscriminate effects and are thus forbidden under international law. The Government of the Republic of Croatia considers this an act aimed at wanton destruction, including the destruction of and wilful damage to institutions dedicated to religion, charity and education, arts and sciences, historic monuments and works of art and science, by wilful killing, wilfully causing suffering and serious injury to body and health, in violation of articles 2 and 3 of the statute of the International Tribunal established pursuant to resolution 827 (1993).

It is the firm belief of my Government that the people responsible should be brought to justice.

With regard to the situation in western Slavonia, I have the honour to inform you that the relevant government authorities have secured the area. The 600 Serbian paramilitary troops who have laid down their arms are presently being disbanded in an orderly manner under the supervision of UNCRO. The highway and the Zagreb-Vinkovci railway are expected to reopen by the end of this week, immediately following technical inspection and certification. Furthermore, Croatia is cooperating fully with relevant international humanitarian organizations in securing the safety and well-being of the civilian population in the area.

Croatia remains committed to its long-standing policy of negotiation and peaceful reintegration of its occupied territories, and in this regard has signed a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement proposed by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Yasushi Akashi. Let me state that the state of unpredictability existing within the Croatian Serb leadership on the occupied territories calls for the urgent establishment of control over their missile systems and bases. This can be most readily achieved through the rapid deployment of UNCRO in those areas.

Should, however, the Serbian side continue with its indiscriminate attacks against civilians, my Government once again states that it will be compelled to respond appropriately and to disengage the relevant attacking positions of the Serbian paramilitary forces.

(Signed) Mate GRANIĆ